

President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
Secretary - Dave Smith, WA2WAP Treasurer, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
Board Members: David Jaegar, Jr., K2DEJ Russ Greenman, WB2LXC Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

EGARA Gets OK to *Expedite* FCC Exam Processing

ARRL has granted EGARA special permission to begin filing its FCC license exam sessions on-line, speeding up license processing approvals and avoiding postal delivery delays of test materials.

Electronic submission of test documents was given the green light after exam materials from the club's March 5th test session took two weeks to make the trip from the Capital District to the League's headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Normally, they are delivered within a day or two of being mailed and processed immediately.

EGARA was accepted into the on-line program because of its long history of properly processing FCC exams by the club's VE team. According to ARRL, "Established ARRL VE teams with a history of adhering to the highest degree of examination integrity, and that consistently submit accurate exam documents consistent with ARRL VEC standards will be selected to participate."

Using the on-line system will allow the club to scan all of the relevant test documents and then submit them through a secure web site maintained by ARRL. The original documents are then retained by the VE team in case they are needed at some future point.

"Unfortunately, delayed or misdirected mail seems to be the new normal," said Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL's VEC Manager.

In describing the benefit of the on-line system, she added: "New and upgraded licenses are transmitted to the FCC within 1 to 2 business days for weekend sessions, and are usually transmitted on the same day for weekday sessions."



Chuck Audette went from zero to Amateur Extra at EGARA's March 5th FCC exam session

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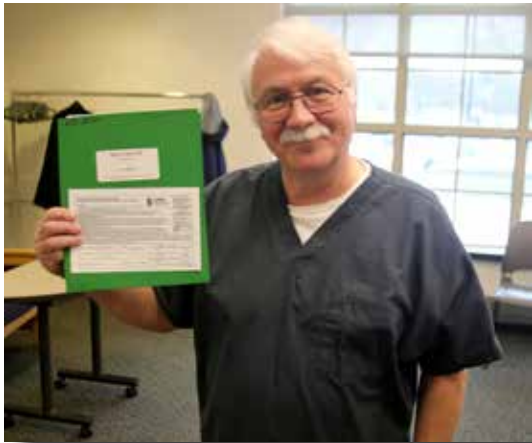
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The March 5th exam session held by the club resulted in a "tri-fecta", with three applicants successfully gaining their licenses or upgrades. The big winner was Chuck Audette of Pittsfield, who came to the session and passed his Technician, General and Amateur Extra all in one sitting. He was granted the call sign AC1OQ. Audette had previous been a ham, but had let his license expire and wanted to return to the hobby.

Ed Bell of Queensbury also wanted to return to Amateur Radio after a long hiatus and was automatically upgraded to a General Class ticket after passing his Technician test. Under FCC rules, Technicians licensed prior to 1987 are upgraded to General, as the test for both classes was identical back then -- the only difference being whether they could send and receive Morse Code at 5 or 13 words per minute. The new call assigned to Ed is KE2BAB. (continued on page 2)

Next Membership Meeting - April 12, 2023 - 7 pm - Radio & the Titanic

March Test Session is a “Tri-Fecta”...



Ed Bell, KE2BAB, shows off his test approval certificate at the March 5th exam session. He decided to return to Amateur Radio after a hiatus of several years

The third candidate to score big during the March exams was Jim Harrigan, KD2QQC, of Rensselaer, who upgraded to his Amateur Extra license.

Although processing was held up by the mail delay, the license approvals were handled the day they arrived by the ARRL and the candidates received their email confirmations immediately. The quick turnaround was helped by the exam materials being carefully checked by the club's VE team before they were shipped out.

The tests were scored by VEs Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, Walt Synder, N2WJR, and Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU. Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, served as proctors.

EGARA has scheduled its next license exam session for June 10th at the East Greenbush Library. The date was decided upon so that applicants who wish to take the General license exam can do so before the question pool changes on July 1st. (See related story on page 11)

Annual Club Elections Set for April Meeting

The annual election of officers and one Board position will be held during the next regular club meeting on April 12th. Open positions include the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and one board member position. Dave Smith has announced that he will not be seeking re-election as Secretary.



Nominations are open to all club members in good standing, which requires dues being paid up for 2023. Members must also be in good standing to cast their votes. As always, dues can be easily and securely paid on-line through the club's website at: <https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>.

Members are urged to consider running for one of the open offices. “Our club is only as good as the involvement of our members,” said current President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “Bringing periodic changes to the club's leadership helps ensure that new ideas are promoted and embraced, and keeps EGARA moving forward in the benefits it provides its members.”

Those who have announced their intention to run are: Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, for President; Walt Synder, N2WJR, for Vice President; Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, for Treasurer; and Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR for Secretary. Although Steve currently serves on the Board, club by-laws allow Board members to also serve as officers.

In addition to the candidates who have announced they are running, nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting, per club bylaws.

2023 World Amateur Radio Day is April 18



World Amateur Radio Day, held on April 18th each year, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on that day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short-wave spectrum could support long-distance radio signal propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” the IARU’s history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to promote the interests of Amateur Radio worldwide and to protect and enhance its spectrum privileges.

Today, the IARU is a federation consisting of more than 160 national Amateur Radio organizations in as many countries and separate territories. The International Secretariat of the IARU is ARRL, “The National Association for Amateur Radio” in the United States.

On World Amateur Radio Day, all radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy global friendship with other amateurs, and to show our skills and capabilities to the public.

World Amateur Radio Day is not a contest but rather an opportunity to “talk” about the value of Amateur Radio to the public and our fellow amateur colleagues. It is also a great opportunity to talk about ham’s radio clubs and to promote Amateur Radio in local media as a lead-up to ARRL Field Day.

Here are just a few ways to participate in, and promote, World Amateur Radio Day:

- Get a station on the air! Create your own personal “event” to talk about Amateur Radio to others, including family and friends;
- Find out more about World Amateur Radio Day by checking the IARU website;
- Create and hold a special net or on-air event on World Amateur Radio Day to raise the level of attention for the celebration, and to encourage other hams to talk about our hobby;
- Consider creating and offering a commemorative certificate for contacting your special activation. It can be an electronic one as these are cost effective;
- Get the word out! Talk about all of the activities radio amateurs have continued to support during the pandemic, and how Amateur Radio serves our communities. Find recent examples of amateur radio in-the-news at www.arrl.org/media-hits;
- Promote your personal World Amateur Radio Day activities on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook by using the hashtag #WorldAmateurRadioDay. Make sure you send it to various clubs, reflectors, and media.

Join your fellow hams in celebrating World Amateur Radio Day and all the ways amateur radio brings us together!

ARRL Hudson Division Chief, Ria Jairam, Resigns

ARRL Director Ria Jairam, N2RJ, who has represented the Hudson Division since 2019, has stepped down, effective March 31, 2023. Vice Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H, of Englewood, New Jersey, will take over the Director's chair.

Vizcarrondo, who earned his Amateur Radio license in 1978 at the age of 11, will serve as Director for the remainder of a 3-year term ending December 31, 2024. He was appointed as Vice Director of the Hudson Division in February 2022, following the retirement of previous Vice Director William Hudzik, W2UDT, who held the position from 2011 to 2022.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, will announce a successor to Vizcarrondo to fill the vacant Vice Director's seat. The ARRL Hudson Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of Eastern New York, New York City – Long Island, and Northern New Jersey.

In a Facebook post, Jairam wrote:

"In 2018 you elected me to be your Director of your League. It was one of the highest honors I had received in my now 25+ years as a licensed radio amateur and it is one which I have immensely enjoyed doing.

I have gotten to know every club, every hamfest, many members, and every Field Day activation. I have been as far North, South, East and West in the Hudson Division as I could have gone, all the way to Saratoga County and Hoosick Falls, all the way down to Ocean-Monmouth, way out East to Peconic and right home here in Sussex County, NJ. And many, many club meetings, zoom and in-person. I really enjoyed every single one.

You, the members have always been my focus. Without you there would be no ARRL. However, all good things must come to an end and as such I am stepping down as your Director effective Friday March 31 at 5PM Eastern. It was not an easy decision, and not based on any one thing.

You can rest assured that I will still continue to work to better Amateur Radio, and be very much involved in the community. I loved what I did, and I am still here for you. I still wish to be your friend and hope to work you on the air, and at Field Day or other places. You may even see me at your nearest hamfest! Although, not with a red badge anymore, but with the same smile and ear to listen to you. And I am still worth 150 points in VOTA!

As always, Peace and 73

Ria, N2RJ



Ria Jairam (center), N2RJ, stopped by during EGARA's 2019 Field Day activities. With her are Chris Linck, N2NEH (L), and Fred Halley, W2EMS (R)



Membership

Club elections are this month....
make sure you're a paid-up member so you
can cast your vote!

Dues remain at just \$15 for individuals and
\$25 for families.

Pay your dues during any club meeting
or on-line through the club's website
at www.EGARA.club.

If you've already paid... thank you!

On the Beam News & Notes

Amateur Radio Included in FEMA Guide for National Emergency Preparedness



Amateur Radio will continue to play a role in providing communications support to emergency management groups, public safety, and other government agencies under the latest plan adopted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Amateur Radio's role is contained in the final version of guidance for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The guidance provides a framework coordinating communications resources between government and non-governmental organizations, allowing them to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

"This is a major step in the recognition of the need and usefulness of amateur radio and other communications services in our national preparedness," said Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, Director of Emergency Management for ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. "It also gives official guidance to pave the way for future training and education of volunteers in ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)," Johnston added.

The NIMS ICT guide (PDF) is available at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ict-functional-guidance.pdf.

KJI Electronics Scheduled to Attend Hamfest

Amateur Radio dealer KJI Electronics is set to return once again to EGARA's annual Hamfest on June 3rd. The company has been a regular vendor at the event for many years, offering a wide array of radios, antennas, tuners and shack accessories.

"KJI has always been a big part of our Hamfest and we're pleased that they'll be with us again this year," said club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "They always have a great selection of ham gear and at very competitive prices. In addition, having KJI with us is a great draw and helps boost our attendance."

KJI has been serving the Amateur Radio community since 1978 and features many top brands, including Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood and MFJ. Its owner, Gene Niemiec, is well known for his knowledge and customer support.

Any club members who are looking to purchase specific gear can request that KJI bring it to the club's Hamfest. They may be reached at 973-571-1930.

This year, KJI will be also be attending the first annual Swap Meet of the Warren County Radio Club, which is set for April 15th at the Queensbury High School, just off exit 19 of the Northway.



EGARA March Meeting Minutes

- The March meeting of the EGARA was called to order by President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, at 7:00 PM;
- 17 members attended at the Masonic Lodge;
- Those in attendance introduced themselves in a round robin;
- A raffle was held and several members won prizes, with a total of \$43 raised in ticket sales;
- An overview of the March 5th VE test session was given, with three applicants earning their licenses and/or upgrades;
- It was announced the next test session will be held June 10th, prior to the General license question pool being revised;
- Elections will be held at the April for officers and one board position. Members must be in good standing (dues paid up) to run for offices and to vote. Members were urged to consider running for the open positions;
- V P Walt Snyder, N2WJR, reminded members that the Ballston Spa ham swap meet had been postponed to April 1st due to a conflict;
- It was announced that the April meeting will feature a presentation on the role of radio in the Titanic disaster, as April will mark the 111th anniversary of the sinking;
- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, provided a program on the basics of using an Oscilloscope. A future meeting is being planned in which he will demonstrate troubleshooting a circuit step-by-step using an oscilloscope.
- Refreshments were provided to the members attending;
- The March meeting concluded at 8:05 PM.
- Submitted by Secretary Dave Smith, WA2WAP

April Meeting Program: Radio's Role in the Titanic Disaster



This April will mark the 111th anniversary of the sinking of the ill-fated passenger liner Titanic. To mark the event, EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, will offer a presentation during the club's April 12th membership meeting on radio's role in the disaster.

For some five decades he has researched Titanic and the circumstances leading to her sinking. He is also the author of "Why the Titanic Was Doomed", published by Pen & Sword Books.

His presentation will explore how radio helped saved the survivors of the sinking, as well as how ice warnings were received by Titanic's radio operators, but not relayed to its Captain or officers.

The History of Ham Radio: Wireless in Washington

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

The fourth National Radio Conference convened on 9 November 1925, with seven hundred delegates from all sectors of the radio community present. Although attendance was larger than at any previous conference, it concluded its work in only three days, the shortest of any. As before, Maxim, Stewart, and Warner represented ARRL and the US amateurs.

Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover once again presided over the conference and set the tone. In his opening remarks he said that amateur radio “has found a part in the fine development of the American boy, and I do not believe anyone will wish to minimize his part in American life.” The boy and his radio had come a long way since the days of squeak boxes.

The conference was divided up into nine committees: Allocation, Advertising, Licenses, Regulations, Marine, Amateur, Interference, Legislation, and Copyrights. Committee 1, frequency allocations, and Committee 6, amateur radio, were the two most relevant to the hams.

Maxim chaired Committee 6; R. Y. Cadmus, Supervisor of Radio for the Third Radio District, acted as secretary; and its other members were all prominent hams. “This was 100% an amateur committee and its meetings were ham rag-chews,” reported Warner. The committee’s primary recommendations were that the Department of Commerce should cease licensing spark transmitters altogether; allow amateur phone transmitters to use 3,500 to 3,600 kHz, observing silent periods; and publish a list of amateur stations annually. Last but not least, And most importantly it urged Commerce to appeal to Congress for increased funding “for the proper control and encouragement of radio.”



Department of Commerce
Secretary, Herbert Hoover

Commercial broadcasters’ attitudes toward the Department and regulation had changed markedly since the preceding conference. While they previously favored a hands-off approach by the government, they now recognized that congestion had reached the point where tight regulation was the only remedy and voted to grant regulatory authority to the department, and to Hoover in particular. They recommended that the number of stations be reduced through “discontinuance” (presumably meaning non-renewal of license or otherwise ending a station’s permission to operate after cessation), that new stations be granted licenses based primarily on public interest, and that the Congress enact legislation to put the Secretary of Commerce in charge of administering radio—a significant increase in authority over what was specified in the 1912 law.

Radio manufacturer A. H. Grebe, a prominent advertiser in QST, led a push to extend the broadcast band down to 150 meters. The engineering community and the US Navy joined amateurs in opposition. More importantly, the broadcasters themselves were split on the issue, with the smaller but more numerous Class-B station owners joining the opposition, reasoning that such a move would mostly benefit the big Class-A stations at their expense by driving them all down to the shorter wavelengths, giving the Class-A all the choice, longer wavelengths.

But the conference decided that reallocation would accomplish little reduction of interference at the cost of “certain damage” to the amateurs. Moreover, it would make existing receivers at least partly obsolete. The rejection came as no surprise given Secretary Hoover’s opening remarks that stated much the same things before the proceedings had even begun.

Another proposal would give 171–200 meters to commercial use in Hawaii. The Mutual Telephone Company there claimed that it would allow inter-island communication that was not possible on 133–150 meters according to their experiments.

The History of Ham Radio...

Maxim and Committee 6 members were not convinced and recommended against adoption in Committee 1, which agreed.

The allocations committee also moved to ban spark below 200 meters, which would effectively ban it from all amateur operations. This too was agreed on and recommended by the full conference.

The Navy presented its proposal for enhancing naval communications, something largely ignored by the 1924 conference, which had been preoccupied with broadcasting. The proposal was adopted after some minor modifications. The committee moved to permit the sharing of the 80 meter band by the Navy for aeronautical operations. The Navy's plan also proposed holding wavelengths shorter than 16.6 meters as "experimental reserve," though the amateur bands at 5 meters and 75 cm would be retained.

When it adjourned, the full conference had recommended that all existing amateur allocations remain intact, including the 150 meter band.

In a letter to Maxim, Secretary Hoover thanked him for participating and expressed his satisfaction that amateur radio had fared so well there, or at least had not been harmed, writing:

"It is always a pleasure to see you at the radio conferences and I was very glad that you were able to attend the one which has just adjourned. As you know, I have been especially interested in the amateur side of radio. There was no desire manifested in the conference for any interference with amateur operations. It is gratifying to know that the conference did nothing to interfere with the amateurs in the slightest degree. I thank you very much for your service as chairman of the amateur committee."

Later that winter, the ARRL board met in Hartford for the first time since adopting the new constitution two years earlier. On the heels of a successful regulatory conference and strong endorsement by the Secretary of Commerce, it was time for a well deserved, self-imposed pat on the back for the League, and acknowledgment of its prime mover. Maxim was unanimously reelected as president, as was Charles Stewart, 3ZS, as vice president.

Citing the "deep admiration and affection" with which Maxim was held by the members, the board resolved "that in re-electing for two more years of leadership the beloved founder and inspiration of our League, we offer to him this unanimous expression of our appreciation for his efforts, our confidence in his ability and leadership, and of our deep affection."

The board renamed the Traffic Department to the Communications Department and changed its manager's title to match. They changed the department's structure too, dividing it into a larger number of regions called sections, each run by a Section Communication Manager elected by the members for a two-year term. The sections were defined by the ARRL Communications Manager in collaboration with the Canadian General Manager, for "the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador," and by the Communications Manager and ARRL directors in "the United States, its island possessions or territories, or the Republic of Cuba."

The US Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce held hearings on two bills and would await action by the House, where a new bill by Congressman White (HR 9108), based on the November radio conference, was being considered. Supported by all radio interests, not just amateurs, it was judged likely to pass with minor modifications, if any. This bill included the establishment of a nine-person National Radio Commission, appointed by the president, to which the secretary could refer matters of rule making. Once referred, the commission's rulings would be binding on the Secretary. Decisions of either the commission or the Secretary could still be challenged in the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia.

When the White bill was passed by the House on 15 March, the only change from its previous version was the commission consisting of five commissioners, one from each radio zone, instead of nine, one from each inspection district. But the Senate committee on Interstate Commerce, which also had a say in the matter, had not reported any of the bills it was considering. Everyone would have to wait.

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Just as the new radio bills stalled for the moment, a legal decision sent shockwaves through the radio community, threatening its entire regulatory foundation. A court sided with Zenith in challenging the authority of the Secretary of Commerce by asserting that since the company was engaged in experimental work it could legally choose any wavelength outside of the 600 to 1,600 meter allocation and operate there under the letter of the 1912 law. The US Attorney General took this a step further and asserted that the government had no authority over radio beyond the 1912 law, in which neither broadcasting nor shortwaves was mentioned at all.

The court's decision did not merely affect one company (incidentally, one founded by an amateur). It further meant that none of the band allocations at wavelengths shorter than 200 meters was enforceable under the law, threatening a return to on-air chaos. In reality, this should have not been very surprising. Most everyone involved had known or suspected just this sort of weakness in the law for some time, but in the interests of harmony on the air all parties in all radio services adhered to the new regulations that emerged from Hoover's radio conferences—until now. A court ruling was hard to ignore. Nevertheless, the League stood behind the agreements made at the Fourth National Radio Conference, "law or no law."

Although the acute and newly urgent need for legislation was obvious, it now looked less likely to pass before the Congress would adjourn and flee Washington in early June. The primary point of disagreement was over who would get authority: a new commission, the Secretary of Commerce, or a combination.

While the White bill passed in the House, and another called the Dill bill passed in the Senate, no reconciliation was completed in time for adjournment. And although Congress managed to pass an emergency resolution giving the Commerce department authority to regulate, even that did not make it to signature before its members left town.

So the country was left without new radio legislation, no legal authority for the Commerce Department, and everyone stuck with the "ancient" 1912 law. Hoover's further appeal to the Attorney General for an opinion went nowhere. Nothing could happen until the congressional conference committee meeting in November preparing for the new Congress a month later. For now, everyone on the air was left up in the air.

Secretary Warner reiterated the League's voted policy that amateurs should adhere to the agreements of the Conference, unlike some broadcasters that were already making changes previously considered illegal, such as changing their wavelength, power, and hours of operation on their own accord. Unlike amateur radio, they had no cooperative agreement among them or national organization to impose guidelines of behavior.

The Department of Commerce reported there were 14,902 active amateur radio stations in the US as of 30 June 1926. Their behavior would weigh heavily once legislative action resumed. "You fellows haven't any idea how much strength your representatives at Washington will gain if they are able to say in the future that amateurs did not take advantage of the technical breakdown of authority to run amok and become radio pirates, but that instead they were square-shooters and played the game like sportsmen!" advised Warner, mixing at least three metaphors.

Frustration continued into fall when, even with general agreement among radio services to endorse the White bill, the new Congress again could not seem to get reconciliation done. Not surprisingly, Warner suspected it was due to politics, specifically members of congress who did not want Hoover to get credit for bringing it all together.

This time, however, an emergency joint resolution was signed into law requiring applicants for new licenses or renewals to file a waiver giving up any claim to specific wavelengths. This was apparently a stopgap measure designed to prevent broadcasters from asserting vested rights to operate by putting up a new station and thereby staking a claim to whatever wavelength they chose—a kind of spectrum squatting.

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Get Them From a EGARA Hamfest Sponsor!***



New General License Question Pool Coming July 1st

EGARA Exam Session on June 10th Gives Opportunity to Test Before the Change

Hams looking to take the test for their General license will face a new question pool starting July 1st.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool in December. The new General Question Pool is effective 1st July 2023, through 30th June 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version.



The pool's 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace 'distractors'. In all, 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats. All of these can be accessed at the website of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators at: <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>.

**N3FJP now offers a free on-line study guide for all
Amateur Radio License classes at: <https://study.affirmatech.com/>**

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting 1st July 2023 and new test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of The General Class License Manual, and/or the 6th edition of ARRL's General Q & A are encouraged to test by, or before, 30th June 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after 1st July 2023.

Meanwhile, for hams looking to upgrade, there's a new and free on-line study guide site that has been created by the makers of N3FJP software. The site is at <https://study.affirmatech.com/> and contains the question pools for all license classes, including the existing and new question pools for the General exam. N3FJP is well known for its logging software programs.

For Technician class amateurs, EGARA has scheduled its next VE license exam session for June 10th at the East Greenbush Town Library. The date was chosen to give test candidates the opportunity to take the General test using the current -- or "old" -- question pool.

For test applicants who plan to attend the club's June exam session, complete details and requirements can be found on the EGARA website at: <https://www.egara.club/ve-exams-sessions>.

The History of Ham Radio...

Finally, in mid-winter there was progress. A successful reconciliation of the White and Dill bills on 26 January 1927 was followed quickly by passage in the House only three days later. The Senate debated the combined measure into mid-February.

The new bill retained the basic intent of earlier ones: to not prescribe specific regulations but rather to vest the power to regulate in an administrative authority. Still unresolved was the matter of what that authority should be, a new commission or the Commerce Department. In a compromise they decided that a commission would be in charge during the first year, the critical time during which most of the regulatory structure would be defined. Then, the secretary would take over with the Commission acting as a path for appealing decisions he made, and retaining the power to revoke licenses. In the case of a refusal to grant a new license, a further appeal could be made to the DC Court of Appeals, and a revocation could also be appealed in a local US district court. This seemed to satisfy everyone who worried about concentrating authority in any one place.

During its formative first year the commission would classify all stations and specify their wavelengths, and the secretary and Commerce Department would issue operators' licenses, assign call signs and perform inspections. Much then was riding on the choice of commissioners, since they would shape radio regulation for the foreseeable future.

With the exception of government, amateur, and mobile stations, anyone building a new station would be required to obtain a construction permit first. Similarly, a provision protecting the secrecy of transmitted messages also exempted amateurs and broadcasters. Together, these two statements—both of which explicitly mentioned amateurs—put to rest the earlier fears of amateurs being excluded.

As fate or chance would have it, the final version of the radio bill was passed just after deadline for March 1927 QST, forcing a last minute rewrite of the following month's editorial. Those amateurs who did not hear the news on the air found out in April QST that the bill was signed into law by the president on 23 February 1927.

To form the initial radio commission, the president appointed Rear Admiral William H. Bullard, USN (retired) as its first chairman, along with O. H. Caldwell, editor of Radio Retailing, Judge Eugene O. Sykes, former justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, Henry A. Bellows, Director of station WCCO in Minneapolis, and J. F. Dillon, Supervisor of Radio for San Francisco, respectively representing the five radio zones as commissioners. They would each serve terms of various lengths ranging from two to six years, but their successors would thereafter serve uniform, six-year terms. The staggering of initial terms was designed to insure a continual, overlapping turnover of seats.

As long and arduous a task as it had been, passing the compromise law was the comparatively easy part. The commissioners would now face the daunting task of dealing with claimed rights of various sorts having to do with continued use of facilities, wavelengths and existing licenses, while simultaneously processing new licenses for every station, as required by the law. Everyone in radio expected them to spend the majority of their time on matters affecting broadcasting, the service most in need of restructuring.

"This country is now about to test in practice a theory which has been largely expounded in recent years: that a radio law should contain no technical stipulations, no guaranties to anyone, but should give discretionary power in regulations to an administrative authority, We shall very soon see," commented Warner. QST printed the complete text of the new, 41-section radio law, occupying six pages.

As a "wild scramble for radio privileges" followed the passage of the new statute, all parties continued to endorse amateur radio. In fact, they sought the opinion of the ARRL even on matters outside the amateur radio realm. Maxim attributed this to a record of good policy making by the League's Board of Directors and "being on the right side of big questions as far back as anyone can remember." He warned, however, that all the good will that had taken so many years to build could be wrecked in only days if amateurs failed to carefully follow the new regulations.

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With the force of law now backing the band allocations, carefully respecting their boundaries was more important than ever. Yet there continued to be far too much out-of-band or off-wave operating going on, especially in the crowded 40 meter band. Even though accurately measuring frequency was still difficult, there was no excuse for it on 40 since the band limits were easy to find, marked by two readily received high power stations on its edges: NAA at the bottom and WIZ at the top.

Facing rumors that the League was endorsing the surrender of the 150 meter band to broadcasting, the ARRL stated flatly that it remained committed to defending all amateur allocations. There was, however, a feeling among amateurs that phone operation, which now primarily occupied that band, should be concentrated there and that the new telephony allocation at 80 meters had been a mistake. The phone allocation at 150 should be increased, many argued. And, by the way, ICW should be eliminated just as spark had been.

President Coolidge named the Federal Radio Commission on 1 March 1927 and it began work immediately. Admiral Bullard, being out of the country, authorized its start up and the commission voted Judge Sykes to be the Vice Chairman. Although the congress had adjourned without appropriating funds for the commission's operation, it was able to get going by borrowing people and equipment from other agencies.

The Department of Commerce established a new Radio Division on 8 March, moving the function out from under the Bureau of Navigation where it had organizationally sat since 1912. The Bureau's offices moved out of the Commerce building and its space was turned over to the new Radio Division and the FRC.

One week later the Commission met for its initial session. Its first official act was to indefinitely extend all amateur and ship licenses, and authorize the Commerce Department to issue temporary amateur station licenses to new applicants pending the establishment of new regulations. In parallel, the Commerce Department extended all operator licenses valid at the time of the law's passage to their originally designated expiration date. The two license grades would be: Radio Operator, Amateur Class, and Temporary Amateur License, eliminating the Amateur Extra First Grade, only six of which had been issued since its inception four years earlier.

Operator license examinations would consist of a sending and receiving test in Continental Morse at a speed of ten words per minute, and a written test covering regulations and operation of radio apparatus. The Temporary Amateur License would be granted when a test could not be given, pending an opportunity to give one, and be valid for at most one year.

The Commission held hearings on broadcasting matters between 29 March and 1 April. Accompanied by Stewart, Warner attended and delivered a statement prepared by the ARRL board. Opening with a brief history of amateurs' technical contributions and operating achievements, he appealed for rejection of broadcast band expansion into the 150 meter amateur band, specifically citing experiments in amateur radiotelephony.

The commissioners were unanimous in opposing any further expansion of the broadcasting allocations with specific support for preserving the amateur 150-200 meter band coming from Commissioner Bellows. Although the band was not taken away from amateur use, the Commission would allow experimentation by individual broadcasters who could show that such experiments would serve the public interest. The Commission's original wording left open the possibility that the band might be made available to broadcasters in the future for both radio and television. For now, however, the regular broadcast band remained confined to 550 to 1500 kHz.

After fifteen years, numerous challenges to their existence, and a near breakdown of radio regulation altogether, amateurs were finally protected under the Radio Act of 1927, at least in the United States. The law established a basic framework for radio regulation whose influence continues today.

More familiar than most with international radio, however, hams knew they could not relax. Threats on the world stage lay ahead.

CALENDAR

April 12, 2023 - 7 pm - Monthly Club Meeting, East Greenbush Masonic Lodge.

June 3, 2023 - 2023 Hamfest, East Greenbush Town Park, 8 am to 1 pm.

June 10, 2023 - 11:15 am - VE FCC License Test Session, East Greenbush Library - Contact: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Pro Tip: Make yourself comfortable

You're going to spend a lot of hours in front of your radio, so take care of yourself, too.



Start with a comfortable chair. Excellent chairs are often available in used-office-furniture stores at substantial discounts.

Also make sure that you have adequate lighting and that the operating desk is at a comfortable height.

The dollars you spend will pay dividends every time you go on the air.

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.



FOR SALE

Icom IC-7300 100W HF transceiver+mic, \$775

Icom IC-7300 Mini-Manual by Nifty Accessories, \$15

Diamond GZV4000 Switching PS RoHS compliant, \$100

LDG Electronics AT-100ProII antenna autotuner, \$125

Heil Sound Pro 7 headset w/ headphones+mic, \$150

Heil Sound FS-3 foot switch, \$15

Heil-Icon headset adapter AD-1-I, \$15

MFJ GrandMaster SWR/Wattmeter ZMF-874 1.8-

525mhz, handles 200 watts, \$60

MFJ-801 RF meter, \$20

Hustler 6BTV-P1 HF antenna system - 24-ft radial plate, wires, tilt base, guying kit, \$375

ARRL antenna book, 50' 300-ohm twin lead, 5 books . . .

\$125 (orig. cost: \$320)

Also MISC. RG8 cable, RG58, PL259 & SO239

connectors, waterproofing supplies,

All items purchased new 2020 - 2022 and like new.

Contact: Randy Brinson KD2TGR at 518-709-4924 or lifecoachrandy@gmail.com

CROWPI W/PI4 - 4G and power supply \$250.00

DS-230 digital oscilloscope, 2 probes & charger \$75

MFJ 80-10M Hamsticks \$15 ech.8 - Total \$80 if buy all

HQ-170 Receiver w/ spkr-Refurb by WB2HPR \$450.00

VIKING RANGER Transmitter refurb by N2CJF w/antenna relay,d104 desk mic,manuals and Augio modd, spare 6146 tubes.\$450.00

HP-4050TN LaserJet 2 bins & toner, networked \$50.00

PANTUM Laser Desktop Printer \$15.00

ATAS-120A Autotune Antenna for yaesu FT 991a

compatible - used 3 mos w/cable \$300.

HD Foot Switch for rig w/1/4 in plug \$30

COMET CF-706 Duplexer, \$40.00

HEIL HM-12 MIC W/Boom & Yaesu Ftdx-3000D Cables \$60.00

Older Military Key W/ Leg Straps Cable & Plug For Ft-991A \$40.00

ASSORTED 2M Mobile Antennas And Cables \$10.00

Contact Dave Smith, WA2WAP at voyagerusa@verizon.net

Yaesu FT-891, no manual or box, \$475

MFJ - 941D Versa Tuner, 2 available, \$25 each

Voltmeter kit, \$5

Contact Don, KB2CDX at: ddm653@gmail.com

Sell your unused gear with a free ad in Sidebands!

Send details to:

W2RBJ@Outlook.com